In The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A plastic molded container, comprising:

a blow-molded bowl configured to resist deformation during a hot fill application and to resist deformation during a retort application, the blow-molded bowl comprising:

an upper rim configured for accepting a lid in engagement therewith,

a bottom,

a central axis, ~~and~~

a sidewall extending between the upper rim and the bottom, the sidewall in cross sectional profile being a smooth continuous curve between the upper rim and the bottom, the sidewall extending radially outwardly before extending radially inwardly as the continuous sidewall extends downward between the upper rim and the bottom to provide a bulging continuous sidewall, the sidewall further having a diameter, the diameter being perpendicular to the central axis and being larger than the height of the bowl, the height being the distance between the bottom and the upper rim, the ratio of the height to the width effecting the container to resist deformation during a hot fill application and to resist deformation during a retort application, and

at least three feet disposed on the bottom, the feet being co-formed with the bottom and configured to extend symmetrically along the bottom, the feet being configured to effect stability of the container on an adjacent surface before, during and after at least one of the hot fill application and the retort application.

~~the blow-molded bowl being configured to resist deformation during a hot fill application and to resist deformation during a retort application, the rim being configured for accepting a lid in engagement therewith, the sidewall in cross-sectional profile being a smooth continuous curve between the upper rim and the bottom, the sidewall extending radially outwardly before extending radially inwardly as the continuous sidewall extends downward between the upper rim and the bottom to provide a bulging continuous sidewall, the sidewall further having a diameter, the diameter being perpendicular to the central axis and being larger than the height of the bowl, the height being the distance between the bottom and the upper rim, the blow molded bowl further comprising at least three feet disposed on the bottom, the feet being co-formed with the bottom and configured to extend symmetrically along the bottom.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The plastic molded container of claim 1 wherein the at least three feet are unitarily formed along the bottom as deformations of the bottom.

3. (Previously Presented) The plastic molded container of claim 1 wherein immediately below the upper rim the sidewall extends radially inwardly to form a substantially flat gripping surface that extends radially inwardly at an angle below the upper rim before the sidewall extends radially outwardly before extending radially inwardly again as the sidewall downward towards the bottom.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) The plastic molded container of claim 2 wherein the three feet comprise a first foot that extends along a radius of the bowl as viewed from the bottom thereof, and a second foot and a third foot which extend in opposite directions and perpendicular to the radius along which the first foot extends.

6. (Previously Presented) The plastic molded container of claim 2 wherein the at least three feet comprise at least four feet.

7. (Previously Presented) The plastic molded container of claim 6 wherein the four feet comprise a first pair of feet disposed on one side of a diameter of the blow-molded bowl as viewed from the bottom thereof and a second pair of feet disposed on an opposing side of said diameter from the first feet.

8. (Original) The plastic molded container of claim 7 wherein the first pair of feet are disposed parallel to one another and the second pair of feet are disposed parallel to one another.

9. (Previously Presented) The plastic molded container of claim 6 wherein the four feet comprise a first pair of feet disposed along a diameter of the blow-molded bowl as viewed from the bottom thereof and a second pair of feet disposed on opposing sides of the diameter along which the first pair of feet are disposed.

10. (Original) The plastic molded container of claim 9 wherein the second pair of feet are colinear.

11. (Original) The plastic molded container of claim 5 wherein the radius is a mold line.

12. (Original) The plastic molded container of claim 7 wherein the diameter is a mold line.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) The plastic molded container of claim 1 wherein the lid is rotatably securable to the rim.

15. (Previously Presented) The plastic molded container of claim 2, wherein each foot is elongated and tapered from a front end facing towards an outer periphery of the blow-molded bowl to a rear end facing towards a central axis of the blow-molded bowl.

16. (Original) The plastic molded container of claim 1 wherein the container is molded from a plastic comprising at least one of the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, polyethyleneterephthalate, high density polyethylene, polycarbonate, polystyrene and polypropylene.

17. (Original) The plastic molded container of claim 1 wherein the container is blow-molded from a single layer plastic.

18. (Original) The plastic molded container of claim 1 wherein the container is blow-molded from a multi-layer plastic.

19. (Original) The plastic molded container of claim 18 wherein said multi-layer plastic further comprises at least one gas barrier layer selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidienechloride, nylon, and ethylenevinylalcohol copolymer.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a plastic container comprising the steps of:

providing two mold halves, each mold half having a cavity defining one-half of the container comprising a bowl comprising an upper rim, a bottom and a sidewall extending between the upper rim and the bottom, the sidewall extending radially outwardly before extending radially inwardly as the sidewall extends downward between the upper rim and the bottom to provide a bulging sidewall;

abutting the two mold halves together;

blowing plastic material into the abutted mold halves under blow molding conditions;

separating the mold halves; and

extracting the resultant container.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of hot-filling a container, comprising the steps of:

providing a plastic container comprising a bowl comprising an upper rim, a bottom and a sidewall extending between the upper rim and the bottom, the sidewall extending radially outwardly before extending radially inwardly as the sidewall extends downward between the upper rim and the bottom to provide a bulging sidewall;

positioning the container within a receptacle;

filling the container with material under hot filling conditions;

sealing the container with a suitable seal member; and

securing a lid on the container.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of retorting material disposed within a container, comprising the steps of:

providing a plastic container comprising a bowl comprising an upper rim, a bottom and a sidewall extending between the upper rim and the bottom, the sidewall extending radially outwardly before extending radially inwardly as the sidewall extends downward between the upper rim and the bottom to provide a bulging sidewall;

positioning the container within a receptacle;

filling the container with material under ambient or near ambient conditions;

securing a lid on the container;

sealing the container with a suitable seal member;

heating the container, material, lid and seal member.

24-30. (Canceled).

31. (Previously Presented) The plastic molded container of claim 7, wherein the diameter at the largest circumference is positioned below the midpoint height of the plastic molded container.

32. (Canceled).

33. (Previously Presented) The plastic molded container of claim 1, wherein the sidewall is symmetrical in profile.